

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

In the Final Rejection mailed March 5, 2007: claims 11-21, 27, 28 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hughes et al. in view of Martin; claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hughes et al. in view of Martin and further in view of Carlson; and, claims 22-26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, without acquiescing to the appropriateness of the prior art rejections issued by the Examiner, and solely to further advance prosecution of this application, by the current Amendment, the subject matter of allowable claim 22 has been incorporated into independent claim 11, claim 22 has been canceled, and claims 23-26 have been amended so as to depend from claim 11.

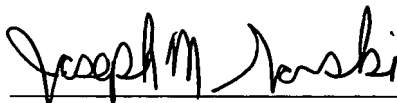
Because claim 11 now corresponds to allowable claim 22, rewritten in independent form, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, with the allowed claims being 11-21 and 23-30.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Katsuyoshi OKABE et al.

By: 

Joseph M. Gorski
Registration No. 46,500
Attorney for Applicants

JMG/nka
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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